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| CLASSIFICATION |
| UNCLASSIFIED |
| DATE OF INFORMATION |
| 9 December 1959 |

INFORMATION REPORT

OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE

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| SERIAL NO. |
| 109-59 |
| DATE OF REPORT |
| 10 December 1959 |
| EVALUATION |
| C-1 |
| REQUEST NO. |

FROM U.S. Naval Attache, Tehran

SOURCE Local Press and
AmCon, Khorramshahr

SUBJECT IRAN/IRAQ: Shatt-al-arab

BRIEF (FOR REPORTS OF MORE THAN ONE PAGE, ENTER CAREFUL SUMMARY)

1. Local newspapers have been running banner headlines on the subject of Iraqi claims to the five kilometers of the Shatt-al-arab opposite Abadan-Khorramshahr where the international boundry cuts out from the shore line to the Talweg. The Iraqi claim is that under the auspices of the 1937 treaty the large oil companies forced Iraq into giving this concession to Iran. However, should Iran not continue to cooperate with Iraq; Iraq has no alternative ~~IN~~ but to lay claim to this five kilometer stretch of the river and thus control every inch of the river from the outer bar at Basra. The Iranian press is "demanding" that the government take action against this type of Iraqi ~~pressure~~ pressure. Stating that Iran is not afraid of Iraqi guns for Iran has guns too.

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|---|--------------|---|----------------|---|---------|--|--------|---|-----------|---|---------|--------------|
| 9 | CIA | | CinCPac | | COMSTS | | OP25 | | OP92 | | N4 | ENCLOSURE |
| 3 | STATE | | CinCPacFlt | / | JAG | | OP03EG | / | 921E | | V | M5 |
| | AFCIN | | CinCLant/Flt | | BuShips | | OP30 | | G26 | / | Y1 | H1 |
| 3 | ACSI | / | CinCNelm | | BuAer | | OP31 | | G3 | | Y2 | G3 |
| | NTPC | / | CinCNelmRep | | BuDocks | | OP33 | | G4 | | Y4 | |
| | USIA | / | FICelm | | BuMed | | OP34 | | G5 | | CR | |
| | OSI, USAF | / | FICPac | | BuOrd | | OP36 | | H1 | | | |
| | FBI | | ComTDC | | BuPers | | OP40 | / | H2 | | | |
| | ICA | | ComNavJapan | | NOL | | OP41 | / | H3E | | N.A. | |
| | Commerce/BFC | | ComNavKorea | | NRL | | OP50 | | H3L | | BAGHDAD | CC each add |
| | AEC | | ComNavMarianas | | ONR | | OP51 | | H3M | | | CC each rpt. |
| | USCG | / | ComMidEastFor | | NIS | | OP58 | | H3T | | | |
| 5 | NSA | / | ComNavPhil | | PIC | | OP60 | | H3W | | | |
| | OASD | | Com1STFlt | | | | OP61 | | H4 | | | |
| | G2, USMC | | Com2NDFlt | | | | OP62 | | N1 | | | |
| | | | Com6THFlt | | | | OP63 | 2 | N2 | | | |
| | | | Com7THFlt | | | | OP | | N3C | | | |
| | | | | | | | OP | | N3E | | | |
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INFORMATION REPORT

OPNAV FORM 3820-2 (C) (REV. 6-55)

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| UNCLASSIFIED | NA Tehran | 109-59 | 10 December 1959 |

Source Information: Local Press and discussions with American Consul, Khorramshahr

Preparing Officer's Comments: The press is screaming for Governmental intervention in this issue, yet doesn't state what action. The crux of the situation is that Iran has everything to gain and nothing to lose in any negotiations and/or discussion with Iraq on this extremely important issue. At present the major Iranian Port is dependent upon this river as is the whole of the operating IIN. With the result that any further Iraqi restrictions could play havoc with Iranian commerce as well as bottle up their fleet. However, claims and counter-claims with much ill feeling will do little to pave the way to mutually satisfactory negotiations.

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